

Flies & Lies

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLYFISHERS
OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 2009

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MONTHLY MEETINGS
Meetings at Miraflores Park
17th Avenue between
Belmont and LaRua

BUSINESS MEETING
1ST TUESDAY, 7 PM

BULL SESSION
2ND THURSDAY, 6:30
PM

**CASTING & TYING
CLINIC**
3RD SATURDAY, 9 AM

Fishing Report... Captain Baz Veluerton



The shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico were typically spectacular in early October. We had many sunny days with light winds, and the sight fishing was terrific. One such day was October 3 when Neal Osborn landed this lovely pompano in a little cut east of the pass. We anchored in two feet of water and had shots at about twenty pompano in three hours. Neal enticed this fish to eat a yellow "pompano rocket". Earlier that same day Noreen Galaba had an excellent shot at a school of jack crevalle, but couldn't quite get the fly to the fish. This shot of Noreen casting really shows off the early-October water conditions.



A few days later on October 9 Chad McCoy landed the first false albacore of the fall season. We were rigged for Spanish mackerel with one of Jerry Aldridge's tan/white synthetic clousers and 40# fluoro tippet when a small pod of FA popped up by the Ft McRee steel jetty. Chad put the fly near the fish and one inhaled it. The heavy leader didn't bother it at all. Go figure. Since then I've been looking for albies on all my fly charters, but we haven't found them. If I hadn't been saying it since last May I'd say they should be here in large numbers any day now...



We had a good month for Spanish mackerel up until the cold front a week or so ago. Since then the fish are harder to find. One thing for sure, the Spanish have been bigger this year. Most of the schools now are between the old Coast Guard Station and Ft Pickens pier, although we're still catching a few very nice fish on the grass flats by Town Point.



The hottest action at the moment is on bull redfish hitting the top late in the day within sight of Deer Point. The fish are after menhaden that are migrating toward the Gulf. Yesterday we found them at 5pm in front of an area inappropriately called Chicken Bone Beach. One of my clients was spin fishing while the other was a fly-fisherman. There were a hundred giant redfish boiling all around the boat crashing the surface. My fly caster had never thrown a 12wt, and to make matters worse I'd tied on a huge popper. He adapted

pretty well to the big rod and was able to throw the fly 30-40 feet. The problem was every time a redfish came up behind his popper he jerked the rod tip up and snatched the fly away from the fish. I tried to calm him down, but he was so excited he just couldn't wait for the fish to actually eat the fly. The action lasted about 20 minutes, and he never hooked a fish. His buddy landed three, and I have to include a photo so you can see the beautiful coloration of these fish.

The clients were in town again today and I had the day off, so late in the day I took them back out for free to give the fly-caster one last shot. But of course the fish never appeared, and he'll be going home with visions of all those fish chasing his fly...poor guy. I betcha he'll be back....Capt Baz

General Business Meeting, Fly Fishers Of Northwest Florida, October 6, 2009, President Larry Goodman, presiding

The **board** meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Larry Goodman. Six board members were present. Larry notified the board that the Pensacola City Parks Department is planning to renovate the Miraflores Park grounds and building. They have requested that the clubs that meet there submit a list of changes that they would like implemented during the renovation. Larry Goodman agreed to receive by E Mail suggestions from FFNWF members and submit them to the Parks Dept.

The club picnic will be held Saturday October 24, 2009 at Shoreline Park. A charge of \$5.00 per person will be made to help defray food costs. Karen and John Brand will purchase the fish. Larry Goodman will notify all club members by E Mail. RSV P's will be handled by Karen Brand. Members will be encouraged to bring a covered side dish.

The date of the Christmas Party will be December 18th at the Holiday Inn near I 10 and Davis Highway. Larry Sisney and Russ Shields will meet with management to firm up the final details as to menu choices, fees, etc

Jay Williams, chairman of the nominating committee reported that all members of the current administration have agreed to serve another term of office if reelected by the general membership.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

The **business** meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Steve Sellers was introduced as a guest. Plans for the Miraflores renovation, club picnic and Christmas Party were presented to the general membership. The minutes of the September 1, 2009 business meeting as reported in the October 2009 newsletter were approved. The Treasurers report for September 2009 was approved.

Name badges will be stored alphabetically in a four drawer file making it easier for members to obtain and return their badges at meetings.

Jay Williams briefly reviewed the procedures for electing club officers. All members of the current administration have agreed to serve another term if reelected by the general membership. Additional nominations for club officers and members at large can be made from the floor at the November business meeting. A vote for officers, members at large and Angler of the Year award will be taken at the November business meeting. The new slate of officers and Angler of the Year Award will be presented at the Christmas banquet.

Joe Higgins reported on his recent 31 day fishing trip and John and Karen Brand reported on their recent 6 week fishing trip. Both trips were out west. After a drawing for door prizes the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. After a drawing for door prizes the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm. Bob Willice, secretary

Casting & Tying at the Club.... Tom Regina

At the November 12 Bull Session I will lead the tying of a Dry Woolly Worm. The Dry Woolly Worm is quite similar to the Crackle Back fly Karen Brand has taught us to tie. However the Dry Woolly Worm is even easier to tie than the Crackle Back. Fly tying starts at 6:30 PM. bring your fly tying tools and tie along with other club members and guests.

The November Casting and Tying Clinic will be held Saturday November 21 from 9:00 AM until about 1:00 PM. Starting at 9:00 AM Jerry Aldridge will lead the tying session. This time Jerry will teach us how to tie a mighty fine bass fly called the Fur Leech.

The materials list and tying instructions for the Dry Woolly Worm and the **Fur Leech** are included in this newsletter. Your club will provide all materials needed to tie both flies. If you have them, bring your fly tying tools. If you need, your club has tools for both you and your guest.

John Brand will conduct the casting clinic on Saturday November 21. John can teach you basic fly-casting or help you improve your more advanced casting skills. John will start the casting clinic at 9:00 AM. Bring your long rod or use one of your club's sticks.

If you are in the market for a new fly rod, but don't know exactly what you want, or what you should buy, John can give you sound advice based on his observation of your casting style, casting ability, and the species of fish you want to target. Many club members attend the monthly casting clinics and bring one or more of their fly rods to practice with. Most members are happy to let others try their rods as a further means of helping determine what specifics to look for in a new rod purchase.

Russ Shields and Jerry Giles won't be fixin us one of their great lunches at the Saturday clinic. For some reason they think it more important to go fishing. However they have lined up a mystery cook to fix us a mystery lunch. If you do not want to tie flies, do not want to take advantage of the casting instruction, at least join us for a free lunch and adult and little people drinks. And there will be plenty of time for lying to your fishing buddies.

As always, you are encouraged to bring guests to all club functions. If you or your guest need fly rods or fly tying tools your club is ready to provide them for use during the clinics and guests are more than welcome to partake in our free food and drink.

Fur Leech... Original Recipe by Tom Nixon

The Fur Leech is one of many creations of the late Tom Nixon, Louisiana tyer and bass fisherman who many of us saw at Southeastern Council conclaves. My variation adds a bit of flash and some rubber legs. Both work well for bass and although I've yet to try it, should attract trout, especially big old browns, perhaps with a slightly shorter tail.

Materials

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Hook | Gamakatsu B10S #1 or Mustad 3366 #1/0 or Mustad 34007 #1 or 2 |
| Thread | Black 3/0 |
| Eyes | Lead, medium, red with black pupil |
| Tail | 4" Black rabbit strip, 8-10 strands red pearl crystal flash, large rubber legs, black, 4 3" strands |
| Body | Black cross cut rabbit strip |



Tying Instructions



1. Place hook in vise, lay thread base from eye to bend and return thread to 1/4" behind eye. Attach eyes with a series of figure eight wraps finished off with several horizontal wraps above the shank and below the eyes to lock the eyes in place. Move tying thread to 1/4" behind eyes. Lay rabbit strip atop shank extending to the rear with skin side down. Tom's version call for "skin side up". Take your pick. Tie on strip from 1/4" behind eye back to the bend wrapping over the fur. Don't worry about the trapped fur ends - they will be covered later anyway.



2. Tie in 4-5 strands crystal flash doubled around tying thread at hook bend. Tie in 2 rubber legs doubled around thread at hook bend. The crystal flash and legs should extend rearward, half on each side of rabbit strip. Attach cross cut strip atop hook at bend, skin side down with fur to the rear.



3. Palmer the crosscut strip forward in adjacent turns to the eyes. While wrapping, stroke fur fibers to the rear making sure that fibers are not trapped by the next wrap. For fuller body, overlap wraps slightly. Nothing is harmed by rewrapping the body. When finished, take 3-4 securing turns behind eyes and bring thread under hook and in front of eyes. Wrap neat thread, whip finish and cement.

Special Notice from the Vice-President

The Nov. 3rd., club business meeting will have a presentation by two of our most experienced and respected members (otherwise known as Tom & Jerry) about their recent trip to the Northeast's prime waters.

Dry Woolly Worm.... Tom Regina

Fly anglers normally associate woolly worm flies with streamers or wet flies. However most any woolly worm fly pattern can be tied as a dry fly by eliminating weighting wire, beads, or cone heads and tying the fly on a dry-fly hook and palmering with stiff rooster hackle the length of the hook shank.

Tying Materials

Hook: Mustad R43, 1XF , 3XL, size 14
Thread: 8/0 black
Body: Orange Flex-Floss
Palmer: White rooster saddle hackle



Tying Instructions



1. Use a jam knot to start the thread on the hook shank one hook eye width back from the hook eye. In neat touching turns wrap the thread back to a point on the hook shank directly above the hook bare. At the thread hang point directly above the hook barb; tie in a full length of Flex-Floss to the top of the hook with five neat, tight, touching forward wraps of thread. Cut away the floss tag end.



2. Select an appropriate size saddle hackle and remove the plumulaceous barbs from the base of the quill. Above the bare quill from which the plumulaceous barbs have been removed, with scissors, cut away about one-fourth inch of barbs from both sides of the butt end of the quill. Cut close to the quill but not against the quill. The objective is to leave a stubble of barbs that the thread will "grab" thus preventing the quill from being pulled out from under the tie-in thread wraps. At the point of the last floss tie-in thread wrap, tie-in the stubble butt of the hackle feather.

(Review step 2 photo to see the relative distance between the floss and hackle tie-in points.) In neat touching thread wraps bind the stubble hackle quill to the top of the hook shank and cut away any excess hackle quill tag end. Wrap the thread forward to the thread tie-in point.



3. Lift the hackle feather out of the way. While stretching* the floss take 3 or 4 slightly overlapping wraps of floss forward to the rear of the hackle tie-in point. Lay the feather back over the wrapped floss and the hook bend. In touching turns continue stretching and wrapping the floss forward to the thread tie-in point. Wrap the floss back-and-forth several times to form a tapered body which is slightly larger at the center than at the ends. The last wraps of floss should end at the thread tie-in point. Tie-off the final floss wrap at the thread tie-in point with 3 or 4 tight thread wraps.

* Flex-Floss has great elasticity and strength. With a little experience you will learn how much to stretch the floss to achieve your desired body shape, bulk, taper, segmentation, and translucency or opacity.



4. Palmer the hackle forward in about 6 to 8 evenly spaced spiral wraps. Tie-off and cut away the tag end of the hackle feather. Form a neat thread head. Cut away the thread and apply a small amount of head cement to the thread head.

Fishing Report....Dane Law, Southeastern Anglers

Fall is here and we have good flows, cool water temps and good fishing in the area. Here is snapshot of what is happening.

Hiwassee River – The big river is in great shape. This is the best Fall fishing we have seen in years. Flows are perfect for drift boat fly fishing. We have dependable water to fish here every day. Water temps are uniform at 60 degrees and falling slowly. Due to high rainfalls in September and early October, the lake turned over unnoticed and the water never reached uncomfortable temps for the fish. We have great holdover with our fish growing fast. Fall hatches are prolific with a variety of insects coming off. Several caddis, including some October caddis, black caddis and others. The mayflies are the big news. We are currently having really good blue winged olive emergence. Mostly small baetis call for the right size fly and good drifts. The fish are looking up. The Fall colors on the upper river are brilliant. The photo of Dale with the 16" bow came from the HI recently.

Clinch and Holston Rivers – Flows are best here for early starts and weekend trips. The rivers are in great shape and full of rainbows, browns, and brookies in the Clinch. The browns are on the move, with some larger fish being taken on streamers. This may be the best time of year to catch big browns on the Clinch. The best numbers are coming from small nymphs drifted downstream from the boat. The Holston has nice size rainbows and fishes great in Fall and Winter. The Fall colors are near peak here.

NE Tennessee – We are proud to welcome Jake Mullins from Greenville, Tennessee to our family of guides. Jake is a native of the area and brings a wealth of knowledge with him. He is a graduate of Sweetwater guide school in Livingston, Montana and a current college sophomore at Walters State College in Morristown, Tennessee. Jake knows the South Holston, Watauga, and Nolichucky like the back of his hand. He is currently spending a lot of time on the newly opened lower drift section on the South Holston. This section has previously been inaccessible for drift boats and provides great fishing with large fish coming up out of the lake this time of year. Jake is also very familiar with the Paint creek and Little Paint creek watersheds. Jake is in charge of our SEA facebook page, you can follow him there.

We have a great Fall and Winter season in store. As always, call or email for a daily report or trip bookings. Thanks, Dane. 423-338-7368 or toll free 866-558-7688

Fish Fry Photos....Joe Higgins



Pensacola Saltwater Flyfishing... Skeet Loes

Waters around Pensacola offer some great fly-fishing opportunities that can be accessed in a variety of ways. My biggest suggestion for beginners, if you can afford it, is to charter at least a half day trip with one of our local club guides, **Capt. Basil Yelverton** (Gulf Breeze Guide Service 850 934-3292) or **Capt. Bob Quarles** (Blue Heron Guide Service 850 501-1530). Fishing with a guide you will have a great time and will learn the best flies and tactics for the area as well as some great spots to fish—it is very likely they will take you to some of the areas I have listed below. Boats, of course offer the maximum range of places available to fish, but they are not necessary if you are willing to do a little walking and wading. There are a number of really good areas that can be accessed from shore. Here is a list of areas that I have fished and are great for wading or in some cases fishing from shore:

Naval Live Oaks

How to get there: Hwy 98 East of Gulf Breeze, the Naval Live Oaks Park stretches for several miles. You can park at the National Seashore headquarters or in the picnic area just a few hundred yds east of the Headquarters. Grass beds run along the entire north side of Santa Rosa Sound in this area and fishing is good through out the grass beds.

What: Primary fishing target here is speckled trout and redfish, but some other fish you might encounter include flounder, ladyfish, Spanish and bluefish.

When: Reds can be found prowling the area all year, but specks are found there mainly in spring and summer.

Big Lagoon State Park

How to get there: Off Gulf Beach Hwy near Perdido Key. There is a fee to access the park, but you also have nice facilities—picnic tables, shelters, and bathrooms. Grass beds along the north shore of Big Lagoon are the primary areas here, but sand flats and channels can also be fished.

What: This area is closer to the Gulf and often has high salinity and supports a wide variety of fish including specks, redfish, flounder, ladyfish, hard tails, Spanish and bluefish.

When: Spring, summer and fall—as long as it is warm enough to wade

Shoreline Park

How to get there: Shoreline Park is just off Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze. The best fishing areas are a little to the west of the park, but depending on how far you are willing to walk, both east and west of the boat ramp provide some good fishing. If you are really ambitious, you can walk all the way to Deerpoint (the point to the west) where there is a shoal and fast current when the tide is moving. Be Careful! Fast Currents and Steep drop-offs!

What: Wide variety of saltwater fish including specks, redfish, flounder, ladyfish, hard tails, Spanish and bluefish.

When: Spring, summer and fall—as long as it is warm enough to wade

Fort Pickens Gate

How to get there: There is a parking area on the north side of Fort Pickens Road, just past the last condos. You can access the south side of Santa Rosa Sound (to the east) and Pensacola Bay from here (to the west). Grass beds can be found in both directions, but in the early hours of the mornings before the jet skis and boats get active, the sand flats may hold a few fish.

What: Wide variety of saltwater fish including specks, redfish, flounder, ladyfish, hard tails, Spanish and bluefish.

When: Spring, summer and fall—as long as it is warm enough to wade

Big Sabine Bay

How to get there: I don't know the mile marker, but it is accessible from Pensacola Beach Road several miles east of the last condos on Pensacola Beach. It is on the north side of the road and is the second point on the north side—the first being Range Point that is also fishable.

What: Primary targets are specks and reds.

When: Spring, summer and fall—as long as it is warm enough to wade

Pensacola Saltwater Flyfishing... Skeet Loes (continued)

Johnson Beach

How to get there: Johnson Beach Park is part of the National Seashore and also requires an access fee. To get there follow Gulf Beach Hwy to the Perdido Key Bridge. A few hundred yards past the bridge is a left turn into the Johnson Beech Park. Once inside the park, go to the end of the paved area and find a park. Begin fishing in the sound to the east.

What: Wide variety of saltwater fish including specks, redbfish, flounder, ladyfish, hard tails, Spanish and bluefish.

When: Spring, summer and fall—as long as it is warm enough to wade

Gulf Breeze end of Three Mile Bridge

How to get there: The south end of Three Mile bridge, both sides, offer a wading opportunity for fly fishermen that are willing to wade in colder weather. You can access the water from the boat ramp on the west side and next to the fishing pier on the east side. There is a channel going into Hoffman Bayou (south from the boat ramp), this channel and the bayou hold specks during the winter where some in our club report having caught over 100 in a day. On the East side, the wooden pier at the base of the old three mile bridge pier was put there because so many fishermen were wading fishing for specks there in the fall as the specks migrated from grass beds to rivers and bayous.

What: Specks are the primary target here.

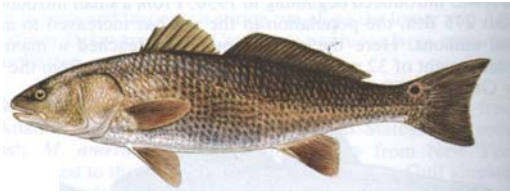
When: Fall and Winter (for those with ice in their veins or at least neoprene waders).

There is one other area I will mention here that is no longer accessible by foot—**Fort Pickens Point**—the east side of Pensacola Pass. When access to Fort Pickens is restored, (hopefully, it will be) you will have access to some of the best saltwater fly-fishing in the country. You don't even have to get wet! Just walk west from the parking area by the jetties to the point. Casting from the shore, you can catch Spanish, ladyfish, bluefish, and hard tails almost any day late in the afternoon or early in the morning. Occasionally you would get an opportunity for very big fish—sharks, bull reds, and even king mackerel. I used to go there after work for just a couple hours and catch over a hundred fish! However, whenever the toothy fish are around (Spanish and bluefish in particular), there is one thing you need to know—use steel! Or you will be forever tying on new flies. It only takes a few inches of the smallest diameter of single strand wire you can find. You will get more hits without the steel, but without it you will lose a lot of flies.

All of these same areas are good for fishing by kayak or boat.

Fish Fry and Bull Session Pics... Joe Higgins & Larry Goodman





NOVEMBER 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | Business Meeting 7 PM | | | | | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| | | | Bull Session-Tying & Tall Tales 6:30 PM | | | |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| | | | | | Clinic - Casting, tying, gourmet lunch 9 AM | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |